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Message Text

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15
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 AF-10 SCEM-02 INT-08

SCI-06 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 CIEP-02 DRC-01

/187 W
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R 201617Z NOV 73
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2406
INFO AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, NL, WE
SUBJECT: DUTCH OIL REQUIREMENTS VERSUS NATURAL GAS EXPORTS

1. NEWSPAPERS REPORTED WHAT WAS INTERPRETED AS THREAT TO OTHER EC COUNTRIES MADE BY ECONOMIC AFFAIRS MINISTER LUBBERS IN NOV 15 PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. LUBBERS REPORTEDLY SAID THAT DUTCH EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS ARE QUITE LIKELY TO BE AFFECTED IF ENERGY SITUATION IN HOLLAND BECOMES WORSE THAN IN OTHER EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AS RESULT OF ARAB OIL EMBARGO. HE REPORTEDLY SAID THAT EVERY EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO AVOID UNEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF ENERGY BURDENS
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AND THAT EC NOW SHOULD DEMONSTRATE TRUE QUALITIES OF COMMUNITY.

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2. ABOUT HALF OF DUTCH NATURAL GAS PRODUCED IS EXPORTED
TO GERMANY, BELGIUM AND FRANCE, AND LONG RANGE COMMITMENTS
HAVE BEEN MADE TO THOSE COUNTRIES PLUS ITALY AND SWITZERLAND.
COMMON INTERPRETATION OF ABOVE REMARKS WAS THAT THEY CONSTITUTED
THREAT TO OTHER COUNTRIES CONCERNED TO CUT GAS SUPPLY SO AS
TO ENFORCE FAIR EC DISTRIBUTION OF OIL AND PRODUCTS IN FACE
OF ARAB BOYCOTT OF NETHERLANDS.

3. INFORMANT IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS (VAN RHIJN) TELLS US
THAT PRESS MISINTERPRETED LUBBERS' REMARKS. HE SAID
STATEMENT WAS MADE IN HYPOTHETICAL FRAMEWORK IN SENSE
THAT, IF OTHER EC COUNTRIES DID NOT EFFECTIVELY DEAL WITH
NETHERLANDS ENERGY PROBLEM, IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY TO DIVERT
SOME EXPORTS OF NATURAL GAS TO MAKE UP SHORTAGE IN NETHERLANDS
REQUIREMENTS, SINCE GAS PRODUCTION CAPACITY IS NOT UNLIMITED.
VAN RHIJN POINTED OUT THAT THIS FORMULATION WAS DIFFERENT FROM
COMMON VIEW OF SIMPLY USING GAS EXPORTS AS BARGAINING THREAT.
GOULD

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